



HARELINES



Volume 17 Number 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY Spring/Summer 2013

The Power Of Two

By Keith Zimmerman

"One is the loneliest number," "It takes two to make a thing go right," and so forth...

Since this is about having more than one pet rabbit, it's important to note that rabbits may not be friends immediately upon introduction. In fact, they are much more likely to start out as enemy combatants; folks are often shocked by the viciousness that their "quiet little baby" exhibits upon meeting his or her future roommate for the first time. There is a proper, established method for bonding two strange rabbits – and by "strange" we mean new to the household -- but that's for another article.

This is the story of just how easy it is to enjoy the immense pleasure of TWO buns instead of just one. How you ask? You've always heard that bonding is a process that can take days, weeks, or months to accomplish? Well, I have a "best kept secret" for you: adopt a pair who is already bonded! That's right. Let someone else do all the hard work, while you get to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Already-bonded pairs

are not always available, and bonded babies don't count since they are not likely to stay that way once they grow older and develop their own individual personalities. But right now, we have two grown up, already-bonded pairs available!

Just like single rabbits, bonded pairs have their own unique personality traits and habits. Some are content to hang out with each other, living quiet and peaceful little lives. They groom each other (usually the boys do the majority of the work and females tend to dominate their mates), eat together, and share a litter box. Others are more conspiratorial and they plot together to seek out new areas to explore, often much to the frustration or amusement of their owners. Sometimes they fully enjoy the company of their humans, and other times they are more content to spend quality time with their mates.

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Luna & Matilda

Caring for a bonded pair is actually not that much more work than having one rabbit. They will use the same litter box -- a large one that can accommodate both rabbits at the same time. They use the same water dish and can use the same food dish (however we use two bowls to prevent fighting during the initial frenzy for morning pellets), and they will share veggies. Supervisory responsibilities can increase with two buns, but if their play area is fully rabbit-proofed, you should have no worries. Sometimes, but not always, the pair will be so preoccupied with themselves that they show less attention to their humans since they have another rabbit to help fulfill their need for social interaction. You may

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Visit the House Rabbit Society at <http://www.rabbit.org> and the Buckeye House Rabbit Society at <http://www.ohare.org>

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We know our members value their privacy and that's why we never, ever, sell our mailing list or distribute it to any other party. All of our members' information is held in the strictest confidence.

Special Thanks to:

Claire Fenrich, Debbie and Eric Highman, Irene Farone, C.N. Coleman, E.M. Higginbotham, Shirley Wood, Pat and Joanne Deluca, and Diana Russian for their most generous donations in memory of **Dennis Wood**, who passed away on February 19. Dennis was a long-time member and steadfast supporter of the Buckeye HRS and we all miss him.

Lyndsay Talerico Oakes, for her thoughtful gift in memory of **Shirley M. Pluta**, whose family loves rabbits and has done so much to help our organization.

Marjorie Aleva, for her generous tribute to her beloved bunny, **Jack**, who died in March 2012.

The following members, whose monetary and in-kind donations allow us to meet our ongoing fostering and educational goals:

Gay Marie Goden, Mary Zimmerman, Lori Fair and Mark Kotzbauer, Liz Claytor, Cynthia Slezak, Clay and Nancy Pasternack, Dorothea Mayerchak, Shirley Kaminsky, Kathy Kallay, Dawn Glanz, Judy O'Neil, Shawna Lemerise, Jim and Laura Gills, Janet Reed, Margo Coniam and Malley.

Our new and continuing Sanctuary Rabbit Sponsors! This program would not be possible without your compassion and generosity. We wish we could acknowledge each of you individually!

As always, the **Monks Copy Shop** of downtown Columbus, for their discount on printing our newsletter.

OUR WINNER!

CONGRATULATIONS to **Carey Miklavcic** of Valley City, Ohio on winning our Spring Raffle, a handmade custom quilt! Thanks to all who bought tickets; your support is making springtime brighter for our foster rabbits as they wait for their permanent home.



Barley & Hops

even notice some jealousy if your attention to them is not shared according to their pre-determined hierarchy.

The two pairs that we currently have in foster care have developed wonderful personalities and behaviors. The BWB (Big White Bun) pair is Barley & Hops – The Brew Babies. They are not babies anymore and are desperately in need of a forever home. They are a brother and sister who have been in foster care since they were babies. Full of binkies, they love to explore and play with our dogs, usually finding every object that they can hide behind. Barley is the male and he is the most out-going of the two. He is fearless and antagonizes us by dancing around the room whenever his play time is over and we try to herd him back to his pen. His sister Hops is more cautious and lets her brother secure the play area before putting on her own binky display. These two beauties are very attached to one another and less so towards their human caretakers. They tolerate being held (once you get them picked up – they are heavy buns!), and Barley is more attached to female humans than men.

Our other pair is Maddie & Luna, the Bopsie Twins, sisters who have been together since birth. They bear a strong resemblance to Siamese cats. These two look bigger than they are, due to gorgeous, fluffy coats. They seem to like men and I can hold both of them at the same time; their contented purring is quite loud! Both are very responsive to

me and seem to know when I'm talking to them as my Sissies. They have a back story that is one of determined maternal caring. Their mom was dumped on a wildlife rescue's doorstep and was quite sick with what we now believe was head-tilt caused by e. cuniculi. She completed veterinary treatment without anyone knowing she was pregnant and her caretaker decided to keep her. Then came 8 babies, although the Bopsies were the only survivors. We were able to take them into our foster home once they were weaned from their mom, and they've been happily bonded ever since. Even though Luna is slightly smaller, she is the dominant

sister and Maddie does most of the grooming. Both are voracious hay munchers (a good thing) and will often choose hay over pellets and veggies! They will make a great pair of buns for someone.

So, if you've ever wanted to have two rabbits, but not wanted to endure the bonding process yourself, try one of these pre-bonded pairs. Both are wonderfully different and either would make a great addition to your home!

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Through The Years

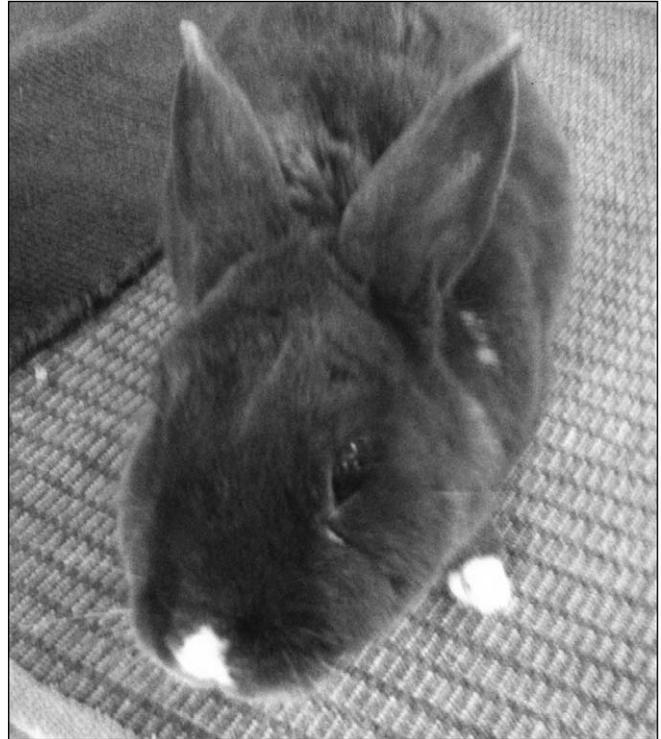
By Sue Zimmerman

Keith and I have been fostering rabbits for the Buckeye House Rabbit Society for about 12 years now. We've seen a lot during this time and here are some of my most memorable moments.

First Rescue: In the fall of 2001, we heard about 50 rabbits seized from an abuse case by the Wood County Humane Society in Bowling Green, Ohio. We were members of Buckeye House Rabbit Society at the time and we had heard about the crisis. The shelter is not far from our home and I began volunteering there. I also helped transport some of the sicker bunnies to Buckeye HRS volunteers when space was available. I brought two of the sickest into our home so that they could get the best vet care. Abby was a young Dutch girl with several open wounds all over her face. And Jax was a large English Spot mix with a severe respiratory infection. Keith and I began our own independent rabbit rescue, but it was not long before we were asked to join the fostering team at Buckeye HRS instead. I also adopted one of the Wood County buns -- our baby, Casey, who was born at the shelter during the crisis.

Most Memorable Rescue: The multi-rabbit rescue that Keith and I organized in the Toledo area in 2003 is the most memorable. A woman had been hiding 8 bunnies in a friend's garage. We were called to see if we could help. When we got there we were horrified to see the conditions these rabbits were living in; we knew that we were not leaving without them. The buns had staph infections which had led to severe fur loss and open wounds. One rabbit had a malocclusion so bad that his front tooth was growing down the back of his throat. It was also less than 20 degrees in this garage despite a small electric heater. We had a finished outbuilding on our property that we transformed into a fully-functioning bunny shelter in one weekend. One of the young bunnies gave birth to three kits the day after she was rescued. Despite our best efforts, we lost the babies. In the end, all 8 bunnies received vet care and all were adopted to wonderful homes. It was a lot of work for Keith and me, but it's a memory that I treasure.

Most Shocking Rescue: Without a doubt the most shocking rescue to date would be the Lorain County hoarding case in 2005. You see TV shows about animal hoarding, but unless you actually witness it with your own eyes, you cannot fully understand the impact. There were over 100 rabbits running loose in a small



Casey

house that was in deplorable condition. A team of volunteers showed up and we worked very hard all day long. My job was to help sex the bunnies and hand them over to the next volunteer group to house them all separately. Right when we thought we were done, we found about 30 more bunnies in the garage. I felt very sorry for the person who was the hoarder. She truly believed that she was helping the bunnies. She was very attached to them and we had a difficult time convincing her to let us remove some of the sick ones. Keith and I took home a pair of three-week old buns, since we had no idea who the mother was. One of the babies made it, the other did not. The surviving baby went to a great home and is a very happy bunny today.

The Difficult Cases: We have seen a lot of healthy buns through the years, but the ones I remember most are the sick ones who required a lot of effort. I have to give Keith the credit on these. He is amazing when it comes to working with sick rabbits and he has a high success rate. In 2008, we took in a stray that someone had found loose in their yard. Jongee, a small chocolate Dutch, had a massive open wound in his back. It was as if something had just taken a big bite right out of him. There was not enough skin to close the wound, so it needed to stay open. For several weeks, Keith cleaned the wound and applied a special salve to the area. This allowed new skin to generate on the wound's outer perimeter so that when the time came, there would be



Hoarding Case Babies

enough new growth to stretch out and stitch together to close the hole. The technique was amazing and it worked.

Our current foster, Rusty, came to us with one of the worst cases of urine scald that I have ever seen. He had no fur from his back end down; all four paws were bald and covered with urine burns. Luckily, urine scald is easily treated just by getting the rabbit into a clean and healthy environment. Rusty is a happy, healthy guy now and is still searching for his forever home.

We also had Patches, a mini rex with no mobility in her back legs. Because of her condition, she lived out her life with us as a sanctuary rabbit. She was a pistol despite her handicap. In her later years she also needed to have her bladder expressed daily. Just keeping her and her bedding clean was a chore. Keith and Patches had a very special bond. It was heart breaking when we lost her.

In 2008, we had a very large New Zealand black named Big Ben. And Ben was BIG. His back feet were about the size of my hands. He was adorable and snuggly and we loved him. We only had him about two weeks and we were making arrangements for his adoption to one of our Buckeye HRS members. The day before Ben was to be adopted, he stopped eating. Sadly, Big Ben passed away suddenly the next morning on the way to the vet. They believed that Ben had died from gastric torsion (a mechanical twisting of the stomach) and there wasn't anything that we could have done to save him. Losing bunnies to illness is the most difficult part of being a fosterer. That part never gets easier. The only comfort is that we gain new knowledge with each death or illness and that helps in later rescues.

Most Memorable Bunny: There have been well over 100 rabbits in and out of our foster home in the last 12 years. Each one leaves a mark on our hearts and some of them just shine with a personality like no



Patches

other. The Most Memorable Bunny Award goes to Snoopy, a young white lop with black spots on his ears, nose, and mouth. Snoopy was the great escape artist and boy did he love his food! And he loved to escape his pen in search of food. He could jump over a 42" pen in a single

leap straight from the ground. I would never have believed it if I hadn't witnessed it several times with my own eyes. And he would always manage to get into the hay, pellets, or papaya tablets every time he escaped. I attempted to cover the top of his pen with a sheet. He would climb the walls of his pen like rungs on a ladder, climb on top of the sheet covering the pen, and then jump down. He would find the hay bin, remove the lid, and go to town. So we moved him to another location and into a new pen with a sturdy, escape-proof top. It was Snoopy's first day in his new pen. I went to check on him after work and he was not in it. He had lifted his pen from the bottom and propped it on top of the cement blocks that separate the foster pens. This gave him a convenient space to crawl out of his pen. When I found him, he was on a table stacked with pet taxis, about six feet off the ground. He had found the pellet container and the papaya tablets, and had removed the lids from both. Pellets were spilled out all around him and he was feasting. I don't know how long he had been out and I was afraid that he had eaten so much that he would be sick. Fortunately Snoopy was fine and ready for his next adventure. We enjoyed watching him and he enjoyed challenging us.

Fostering for the Buckeye House Rabbit Society has been a most rewarding experience. We've had bunnies come and go and have met wonderful people throughout the years. We've seen many changes too. One constant in our lives is our very own 12-year-old bunny, Casey. Casey is a living survivor of the 2001 Wood County crisis and has been with us from the start. She has shared her home with countless other buns (and dogs). I know that she will not live forever, but I consider each day we have with her a blessing. She is a reminder to me of why I love the lagomorph and why I do what I do.



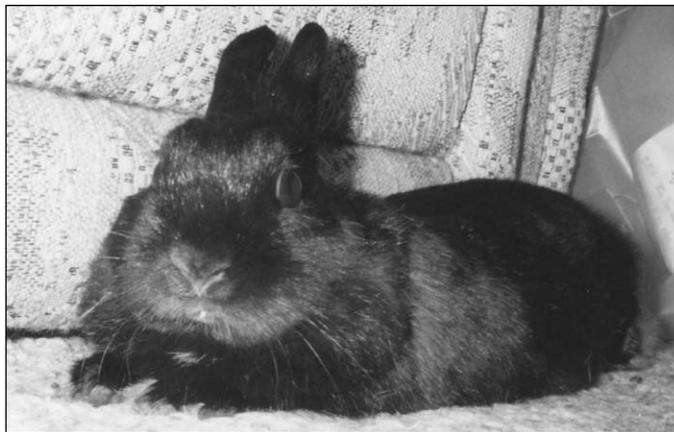
Remembering Jackie

By Marjorie Aleva

On March 3, 2012 my little Netherland dwarf bunny, Jack, passed away at the veterinary hospital while receiving treatment for heart failure. I try not to dwell on how Jack passed away, but it is a joy to tell you about our life together. Jack had been my companion for twelve years, the hardest years of my life so far. It seems to me that Jack was my helper, my loving source of comfort when I needed him the most, during a time of tremendous change. While he was with me I had surgery, I lost my job of twenty years due to the economic downturn, I became a caregiver for my parents and developmentally disabled sister, my father passed away, my mother passed away, and my sister passed away. Through all of the loss and changes, Jack was my friend who was always with me.

The one thing that I remember most about Jack was his ability to love all of his family equally, never favoring any one person more than the other. With my mother, Jack loved to sit on her lap. Because his cage was in the kitchen, he spent much time with her there. Jack loved my mother's voice and gentle touch. My sister, Nancy, had Down syndrome. Whenever Nancy sat on the couch with her coloring books and crayons, Jack had to jump up on the couch and look through any magazines and books stacked there by grabbing them with his teeth. If Nancy had any pages removed from her coloring book, Jack signed them with his teeth marks. Nancy would just pat Jack on his head; she always liked it when he showed such an interest in her hobbies and he always wanted to know what she was working on. My dad liked to be in his vegetable garden when the weather was warm. When he was still able to do his gardening, I would take Jack outside to see him. Dad would pet Jack and talk to him; Jack liked to see all of the plants and the cottontail rabbit that lived in our yard. My brother Les did not live at our family home, but when he came over at least once a week to visit, Jack always understood that he was part of our family too. Les liked to play with Jack on the floor with his rabbit toys. Jack also really enjoyed when my brother lifted him high up in the air so that he could look around; he was never afraid of heights.

Because I was Jack's daily caregiver, we always had such a strong bond. I never doubted that Jack loved me just as much as I loved him. I almost always called him Jackie; he was my little buddy. Jackie loved to play with me on the floor and liked to walk all over me.



Jack

He liked to give me rabbit kisses on my face. And he always wanted to run around the living room as fast as he could. As far as Jack was concerned, he owned the house and did not like to see anything moved to a different place. When he felt that he was not receiving enough attention, he would try to overturn his water dish. Jackie had such a big heart. He loved to play, loved to be petted, and was just a lot of fun.

My dad passed away in 2003. In 2006, my mom and Nancy both faced many medical problems and went to live in care facilities. I always told Jack how Mom and Nancy were doing when I went to visit them every day. Most days I would be gone from home at least four or five hours; if I had to visit a hospital, it was a longer day. Sometimes I came home only for short intervals to take care of Jack and feed him; I knew he understood why I could not be at home. Jackie never seemed to mind when my face touched his fur while I was crying; he did not care if his fur got wet or tear stained. I remember the day in October 2010 when I came home and told him that Mom had died. Eight months later, in June 2011, I told him that Nancy had died.

After Nancy's death I thought that my little friend was slowing down due to age. Jackie seemed to be getting tired. My brother and I took Jack to the hospital on the day that he passed away. We were so deeply saddened by Jack's passing; he was loved so much by both of us.

I still grieve for my family; every day I think about them and miss them very much. I believe that they are in heaven now, and I believe that Jackie is with them too. He was such a good little bunny, a kind-hearted, loving friend who adored his family. Jackie will be in my heart forever, and I will always treasure the time that we had together.

Buckeye House Rabbit Society has a store on CafePress.com!



Buy a bunny a little time.

A portion of all purchases made through www.cafepress.com/buckeyehouserabbitsociety

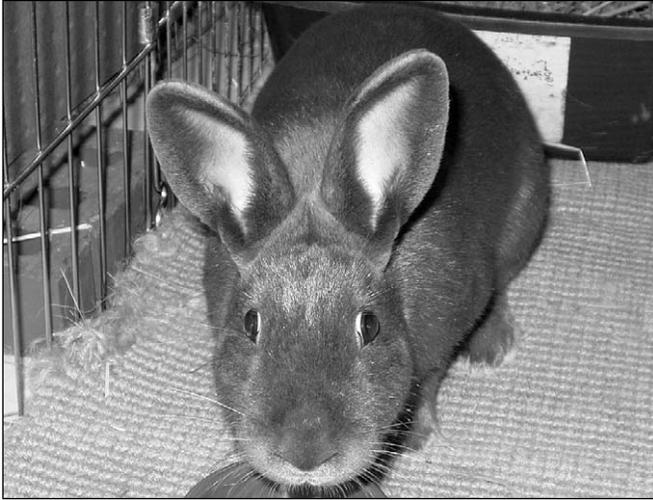
will help support the rescue of abandoned rabbits. We depend 100% on generous donations from our supporters.



<http://www.cafepress.com/buckeyehouserabbitsociety>



Somebunny Needs YOU!



This is **Pumpkin!** She is a very sweet young lady. Just look at her awesome blue/gray fur! What a beautiful bunny! Pumpkin enjoys playing with her toys and she especially loves to chomp on hay. Wouldn't you love to make Pumpkin a member of your family? **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Have you ever wanted back into a time of innocence, when rabbits could be big and white and magic? This young lovely, born in spring '09, will take you there. Open your door to her, and come home to the land of **Honalee.** **Please contact Herta Rodina (bhrs-herta@ohare.org) 740-797-3085.**



Meet sisters **Luna** and **Matilda** ("Mattie"). They look a lot like little Siamese kittens. They are very, very curious and anxious to explore their surroundings. Both are friendly and good at being held. They've been spayed and are now ready for adoption. We prefer that they be adopted together. Make an appointment to meet these cuties today! **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



"Izzy" cute and adorable or what? Yes, he is! Meet **Izzy;** this four-pound gray Dutch bunny is as sweet as he is cute and adorable. He has excellent litterbox habits too. "Izzy" going to be a part of your family? **Please contact Michele Roth Kerley (bhrs-michele@ohare.org) 859-261-0556.**



Meet **Barley** and **Hops**, aka "The Beer Babies". Barley and Hops are a pair of super friendly "BWBs" (Big White Buns). They are six months old. Barley is a sweet boy and likes to be involved in whatever you are doing. Hops is a cute and curious little girl. We would like them to stay together. BWBs grow to be larger than average bunnies, but they have the sweetest temperaments. They are mostly laid back and easy going. BWBs are good for families with younger children. Come see for yourselves how wonderful these guys really are. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Addison is a young and playful little girl who is always busy. She enjoys head pets, giving kisses, hopping through tunnels, and running the "Bunny 500." Her adventurous personality makes a large pen a necessity. Addison is a perfect example that small bunnies can have BIG personalities. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Leo is a handsome, curious young fellow who enjoys the company of humans and likes to be held. He is very neat with his litter box and keeps his house nice and clean. Leo is an all-around good bunny. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Rusty came into foster care as a stray who had been very poorly cared for. He had urine burns on all 4 legs and was malnourished. For some reason, his entire coat was colored red. Since then, he has recovered fantastically! All of his fur is growing back and we've discovered that he actually has a white belly! Rusty has a great personality and he's loving life now. He's about 5 years old, but acts like a youngster; he hates having to go back to his pen after play time. We think Rusty would be an excellent rabbit for just about any household. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**

Adopted!

Igor was adopted by the Moore family and is enjoying his time hanging out with his new best friend (of the human kind), Elijah. ♥ **Butch-Herman** (now JellyBean) and his girlfriend **Zora** (now Taffy) have found their forever home in Westlake with the Mercer family. Every day has been a new adventure for them and the Mercers since their adoption. Congratulations to Amy and her kids! ♥ **Cuddle-loving Woodruff** is now the center of attention in his new home with Carrie and Bill of Clintonville. All the best to Woodruff! ♥ **Buttercup Levy** is enjoying binkies in her new home with Rachel Levy. Buttercup Levy was named by Irene Levy, Rachel's mom, with the **Name Our Next Foster** program (see our website for details).

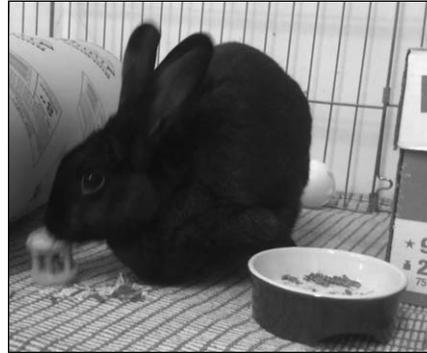


Somebunny Needs YOU!



Carmen was found in Cincinnati with Woodruff and other bunnies loose in a neighborhood. She absolutely thrives on human interaction and gets excited each time she sees someone. She is younger, under 2 years and a perfectly healthy happy bunny. Her interests include body pets and chunky pieces of Timothy hay. Just

seeing her silly head shakes will bring a smile to your face. **Please contact Stephanie Lodge (bhrs-stephanie@ohare.org) 216-571-1088.**



Winnie was found running loose in a neighborhood and hiding under a camper. She's about 3 years old and has a gorgeous black coat with some brown speckles. She's a "full-sized" girl with a giant dewlap that she snuggles her chin

into during sleepy time. At her age, she's not a hyper youngster although she does enjoy casually exploring her surroundings and being petted. Winnie is a good choice for someone who wants to spend lots of time just relaxing with a bun. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Meet the beautiful **Miss Izzy-Belle** with her gorgeous blend of gray and brown fur and an agouti belly. She is friendly and neat -- and tidy with her bunny house. She enjoys snuggling and being held. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



Scout is an adorable Mini Rex mix rabbit. About one and a half years old, she is on the smaller side and is very friendly. She enjoys playing in her box and being held. Scout is very good with her litter-box habits. **Please contact Sue Zimmerman (bhrs-sue@ohare.org) 419-355-8433.**



The Buckeye House Rabbit Society is having a photo contest!

Send us a photo of your bunny

The winning photograph will be featured on merchandise in our Cafe Press Store

<http://www.cafepress.com/buckeyehouserabbitsociety>

Entry fee is \$2.00 per photo or 3 photos for \$5.00

To enter the contest please email a digital photograph (high resolution preferred) to bhrs-sue@ohare.org along with your name, bunny's name, address, phone number, and e-mail. Payment may be made by PayPal or by check mailed to:



Buckeye House Rabbit Society
Sue Zimmerman
3031 SR 412
Fremont OH, 43420



Deadline is August 1, 2013

A high-quality print photograph may also be sent to the above address, however no photos will be returned

A Call for Help

By Stephanie Lodge, Cleveland-area fosterer

Back in March, I received a call from a frantic lady needing help with a bunny who had broken his leg. Her 5-year old son, playing with the bunny unsupervised, had accidentally dropped him. The bunny, now named GusGus (short for Gustavo), got his leg stuck in the top of his cage and was hanging from the cage tangled and broken. The lady had called me to find out if we could euthanize GusGus. My first thought was "if you broke your leg, we wouldn't kill you." Given the circumstances, I agreed to accept GusGus into foster care and immediately took him to Dr. Riggs, rabbit vet extraordinaire, for an examination. While the initial decision was to amputate the leg due to the severity of the injury, Dr. Riggs was able to save his limb. After a complicated and costly surgery, GusGus is in a cast and slowly healing. His personality is wonderful and everyone who meets him falls in love – it also doesn't hurt that he is quite the looker.

This horrible accident reminds us that while children can be wonderful playmates for rabbits, a responsible adult must always supervise their time together. We must also make sure that the children understand that rabbits should not be picked up or carried around. Bunnies can be unpredictable, but with the correct knowledge accidents like this can be avoided.



As you can imagine, Gus's expensive surgery and his follow-up vet visits were unexpected, so we need your help.

Please send your donation to **Buckeye House Rabbit Society, P.O. Box 5767, Athens OH 45701** (checks payable to "Buckeye House Rabbit Society", please write "GusGus" in the memo). Or donate through Paypal by clicking on "Donate On-Line" from our website www.ohare.org. The Buckeye House Rabbit Society runs strictly from donations, and all donations are tax-deductible.

GusGus and all of the other bunnies THANK YOU for your generous support!
To see more of GusGus, including a video, visit our website!



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Your \$33.00 annual membership in the Buckeye HRS includes:

- National membership (\$18.00) and 3-4 issues of the House Rabbit Journal
- Local membership (\$15.00) and issues of Harelines

If you are already a national member, your local fee is \$15.00

- I would like to donate \$_____ to help a foster rabbit (vet care, supplies)
- I would like to donate \$_____ in memory of _____.
The grieving family receives an acknowledgment of your gracious gesture.

I would like to volunteer to:

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- Assist with mailing
- Help at Buckeye HRS booth at Pet Expos and fairs
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Buckeye House Rabbit Society

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Buy a bunny a little time...